

To Kill A Mockingbird

Chapter 24
Handout 2

Name _____

Date _____ Hour _____

Symbolism: A Mockingbird *Group Activity*

A symbol is an object or action that stands for something else. There are several ways that the mockingbird symbol is used in the novel. The first mention of a mockingbird is when Atticus tells Jem and Scout that it is a sin to kill a mockingbird. Miss Maudie elaborates, saying that mockingbirds only do us good and, therefore, ought not be harmed. This activity lets you work as a group and independently to gather the best ideas. It teaches you more about one particular character and about the way symbolism functions in the novel.

Directions: Consider Tom Robinson as a mockingbird in the novel and apply what you know about symbolism to increase your understanding of this character.

A. As a class, make a list on the board of everything that happens to Tom Robinson in the novel. Use the box below to write down the ideas you hear.

B. On your own, review the list above and write down three ways that Tom is similar to a mockingbird.

1.

2.

3.

C. As a class, discuss how Tom is like a mockingbird. Be prepared to explain your answers from section B. Also, think about the reasons the author uses the mockingbird symbol. Write down ideas you hear from your classmates in the box below.